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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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5. Workers' Militia:

The workers' militia was alerted for a state of emergency even before 26 June 1950. Members of the militia are on night duty and stand guard at gasoline stations, post offices and other public buildings, or patrol the towns. Militia in the border regions cooperate closely with the army and militia members now take the same drill as soldiers. They are trained and exercised on Sundays and holidays, and there are military rifle ranges at their disposal where every evening they engage in target practice.

6. Border Regulations:

Opening fire without warning in the border area has been a practice of the SNB for a long time. SNB and military units which patrol the border region were ordered to shoot at all persons loitering in the border zone in the woods and fields and at those who were moving off the roads after sunset. This order was given about the beginning of 1950 at a time when the so-called "forbidden zone" was created. This zone is from one to five kilometers deep, and all people living there were evacuated except those who were employed in the area, such as foresters, road workers, and employees of state farms.

6. New border entry permits have been issued--white for daytime entry and blue for night entry. The issuance of blue permits is very rare and bearers are instructed which roads to use. Guards are then informed when someone is authorized to be in the area at night.

8. There is no information to confirm the rumor that the issuance of border region entry permits has been discontinued. The border zone may be entered freely without permission, although personal document checks are carried out at random. The issuance of permits for the forbidden zone, although recently restricted, has not been stopped entirely. The District National Committee and the Local National Committee issue permits for the forbidden zone to mushroom pickers, but the permits are numbered and bearers must surrender them to the Local National Committee. Very often people in possession of these permits escape into the American Zone of Germany. Some places close to the border, particularly recreation spots such as Mestys Zelezná Ruda (W50/Q09), can be entered without permits.

9. SNB Air Patrol:

SNB air patrols have been watching the border area since before 26 June. Since the beginning of June, though, the detail was strengthened and more duty flights have been flown daily. The flights take place at irregular intervals from southwest Bohemia toward the northwest and back again.

10. Conclusion:

All the security provisions covered in this report were in force before 26 June 1950. Some of these provisions were strengthened after 26 June, possibly as a result of the Korean war, but also due in part to the fact that military maneuvers were in progress at this time. According to the latest information, security provisions have been relaxed in border regions since the beginning of September when military units were returned to their barracks.

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